

Comparative literature

Fourth year

English department

Theory: Part 2

 **The American school**

 **See pages 68-85**

Problems with French school

- 📖 - what is retained in the influenced text?
- 📖 What is rejected?
- 📖 Why and how is the material absorbed?
- 📖 They became less strict in practice.

Henry Remak:

 **Definition of Com. Lit.**

 **Beyond geographical and linguistic boundaries**

 **In relation to other areas of knowledge**

Academic background

 **modernist literary criticism**

 **Interdisciplinarity**

Comparison:

 **between two or more different literatures**

 **between literature and other fields of cognition
(music, painting, sculpture, architecture, philosophy,
sociology.. etc).**

Unlike French school

 leaves it all to the comparatist to lay the grounds for his or her study,

Which means

 INDIVIDUALITY

 DEPOLITICIZATION

1- individuality

 **Less disciplinary rules, more individual perspectives**

 The influences between international literatures are ignored and an emphasis is placed on humanity's collective achievements through time and place and across disciplinary lines

Depoliticization

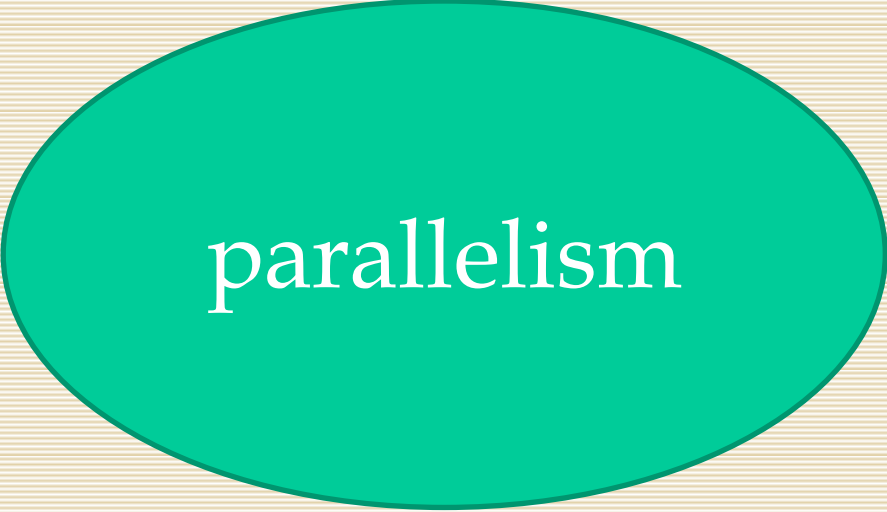
 **DE** - POLITIC -  IZATIO (ANTI- POLITICS)

 The opposite of nationalism

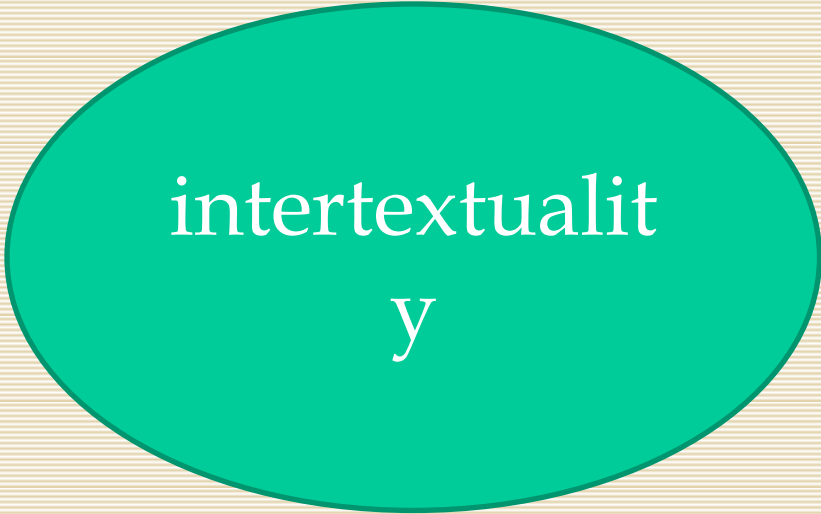
 Not related to anti nationalism

 Puts politics aside

Theories of the American school



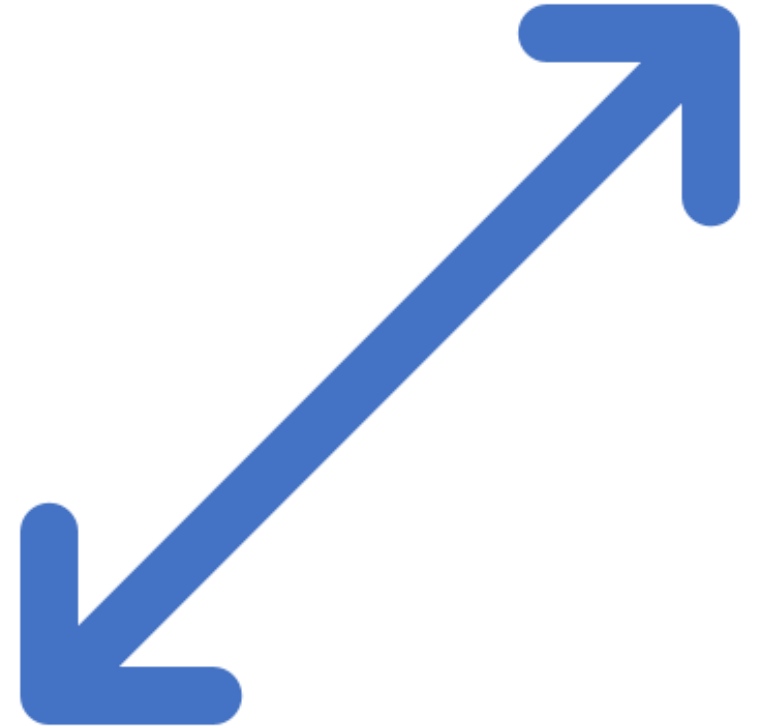
parallelism



intertextualit
y

parallelism

📖 claims that there are affinities between the literatures of different peoples whose social evolution is similar, regardless of whether or not there is any mutual influence or direct relation between them.



(1) The 'Parallelism' Theory

 Ihab Hassan, and other American critics suggest 'parallelism' as an alternative to the theory of 'influence' in comparative literature.

intertextuality

 M. Enani defines it as the relation between two or more texts at a level which affects the way or ways of reading the new text (the 'intertext,' allowing into its own contexture implications, echoes or influences of other texts).

 This reminds us of Barth and T. S. Eliot

intertextuality

Hypotext

Hyper text

